P750132-1517

United States Senate

aug 18, 1975 (mail) 93

ACTION
is assigned to
NEA

Respectfully referred to:

Congressional Liaison
State Department
Washington, D.C.

Your response to this constituent of several months ago apparently did not reach him. Hope you have copy of your reply that I might forward to him. If not, could you please formulate another response.

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

DATE 1/10/83

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DECLASSIFIED

WM. M. GARDINER
P. O. BOX 3
OTTER ROCK, OREGON 97369
PH (503) 765-2511

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The Honorable Mark O Hatfield
United States Senate

Dear Mark—

You may recall Linwood Holton, Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, Department of State, advising you in his letter of Dec. 16, 1974, relative to the Israelis' premeditated and murderous attack on the USS Liberty, June 8, 1967, "If I may be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me."

As I am attempting in-depth research, in order to let our fellow Americans know the whole truth about this tragic matter, I'll appreciate your asking Mr. Holton for the following information—

1. Copy of the U.S. Naval Courts of Inquiry hearings in London and aboard the damaged USS Liberty in Malta—findings presented to, and approved by, Admiral John S. McCain on June 18, 1967;

2. Copy of the USS Liberty report issued by the Department of Defense;

3. Copies of all U.S. Government press releases and/or official statements on the USS Liberty incident;

4. What was the total monetary damage done to the USS Liberty by Israeli sea and air forces?

5. What happened to the USS Liberty after her arrival at Malta?

6. What happened to its skipper and crew?
   (a) Commander Wm. L. McGonagle, skipper;
   (b) Wounded crew members;
   (c) Fortunately unharmed crew members.

7. On June 18, 1967, the Shreveport Times reported—"When the Liberty pulled into port at the island of Malta, Thursday, accompanied by U.S. destroyers, its captain told reporters he and the crew were under orders not to talk to anyone about the attack..." Why, and for how long was this order in force, and who issued it???

8. Why were the U.S. planes dispatched to help the USS Liberty under attack recalled before they even reached the helpless ship? Who issued these recall orders?

9. Names, present assignments, and current addresses of all officers and men serving on the USS Liberty on June 8, 1967;

10. Has the USS Liberty ever received international orders off the coast of [illegible] orders of the United States Navy or the CIA?

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11. Was the USS Liberty, "like other CIA spy-ships...", "equipped with (an) electronic device which, from a great distance, could render all radar inoperative"?

12. Did the USS Liberty, in fact, activate this device "before daybreak on the morning of June 5, 1967" to knock out the UAR's radar defense system so that some 200 Israeli jet planes could spray the Suez Canal-Sinai area with LSD-25?

13. Was LSD-25, an invisible, odorless and tasteless as developed by the U.S. Chemical Warfare Division, and which completely paralyzes its victims for from 12 to 15 hours, demonstrated to, and supplied to, the Israeli forces for this initial, crippling air strike in the "6-Day War"?

14. Did the Israelis then, with their Arab victims helpless on the ground, "move in with 200 bombers loaded with the most destructive types of bombs, including a secret bomb developed by the United States for the destruction of airfield runways..."?

15. Did, in fact, prior to this "60-minute Blitz", a U.S. U-2 fly over the Suez Canal-Sinai area to photograph and pinpoint every UAR airfield and military installation for the Israelis?

16. How much military aid has the U.S. Government given Israel—

(a) prior to the "6-Day War" of 1967?
(b) since?
(c) how much has actually been paid for by Israel?
(d) how much by loan and at what terms?
(e) how much an outright gift of the American taxpayers?

17. How was the April 29, 1969 payment of $3,566,457 to the U.S. Government by Israel, which the Department of State advised on April 10, 1973 was "to pay compensation to the families of the personnel killed, as well as to the injured, and to the United States Government for damage to the ship", made? How was it disbursed? Details, please.

18. Some of the wounded USS Liberty's crew were still on the critical list 10 days after the attack. Does the original 34, dead, 75 wounded count still stand? If not, what is the revised total of dead and wounded?

With your help, Mark, we'll be able to disclose the whole truth about this tragic affair.

Cordially and constitutionally,

WMG: h

Wm M Gardiner.

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